What Is Delta Air Lines Unaccompanied Minor Policy?

QUICK ANSWER:

Delta's Unaccompanied Minor service supervises children ages 5-14 (mandatory) and 15-17 (optional) flying without a parent. Fee: $150 each way domestic, approximately $300 international. Ages 5-7: nonstop/direct only. Ages 8-14: connections allowed. Service includes gate escort, in-flight monitoring, connection supervision, and verified pickup with government ID. Bookings are phone-only. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to arrange UM travel.

SENDING A CHILD ALONE? Call Delta Airlines
+1➤855➤203➤2961 (Available 24/7 | UM Bookings Are Phone-Only)
Press 0 to skip menu — UM service requires advance booking
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com

DELTA UNACCOMPANIED MINOR RULES:

1. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to book — UM reservations cannot be made online

2. Verify your child's age qualifies: 5-14 mandatory UM, 15-17 optional

3. Ages 5-7: nonstop/direct only | Ages 8-14: connections allowed

4. Fee: $150 each way domestic | ~$300 each way international

5. Provide child's name, age, parent info, and designated pickup person details

6. Parent receives gate pass to escort child through security to the gate

7. Pickup person must present government photo ID matching UM paperwork

8. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 at least 3-5 days before travel for best availability

What Is Delta's Unaccompanied Minor Service?

Delta's Unaccompanied Minor (UM) service provides supervised travel for children flying without a parent or guardian. The service assigns dedicated Delta staff to oversee the child from the moment the parent hands them to the gate agent at the departure airport through the entire flight and connection process until the child is delivered to the designated pickup person at the destination. UM service is mandatory for children ages 5-14 and optional for teens 15-17. The fee is $150 each way domestic and approximately $300 each way international. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to arrange UM travel because bookings cannot be made online.

The UM service includes priority boarding so the child settles into their seat before other passengers board, a designated seat near the flight attendant station for easy monitoring, a wristband or lanyard identifying the child as a UM passenger, dedicated staff supervision during any connections, and verified handoff to the pickup person with government ID verification at the destination. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent explains the complete UM process and collects all required information during the booking call.

What Are the Age Requirements for Delta's UM Service?

Children under 5 years old cannot fly unaccompanied on Delta under any circumstances. Children ages 5-7 can fly as unaccompanied minors but only on nonstop and direct flights because connections add complexity and risk for very young children. Children ages 8-14 can fly as unaccompanied minors on nonstop, direct, and connecting flights because they are better equipped to handle the connection transfer process with staff assistance. Teens ages 15-17 can fly alone without UM service or can optionally request UM service for the $150 fee if parents want the added supervision. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and provide your child's exact age for route and service eligibility.

Age is verified at check-in using the child's government-issued ID, passport, or birth certificate. The child must meet the age requirement on the date of travel, not the date of booking. If a child turns 5 between booking and travel, they qualify for UM on the travel date even if they were 4 when the booking was made. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and confirm the age verification documents needed for your child.

What Routes Are Available for Unaccompanied Minors?

Route availability depends on the child's age. Ages 5-7: nonstop and direct flights only on Delta-operated domestic routes. No connections, no partner airlines, no international flights. Ages 8-14: nonstop, direct, and connecting flights on Delta-operated domestic routes and select international routes. Ages 15-17 (optional UM): all Delta routes including international. The last flight of the day is not available for UM ages 5-14 to prevent overnight stranding if the flight is cancelled or significantly delayed. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent searches available UM routes for your child's age and travel dates.

Flights operated by Delta Connection regional carriers under the Delta brand are generally available for UM service. However, flights operated by SkyTeam partner airlines are typically not available for UM service because the supervision responsibility cannot be transferred between airlines. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and verify that your specific flight is Delta-operated and eligible for UM service.

How Does the Check-In Process Work?

On travel day, the parent or guardian bringing the child to the airport must check in at the ticket counter, not the self-service kiosk or online. The parent completes the UM paperwork including the child's information, parent contact details, and the designated pickup person's full name, address, phone number, and relationship to the child. The parent receives a gate pass that allows them to pass through TSA security and escort the child to the departure gate. The parent stays at the gate until the flight departs and the child is confirmed on board. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 if you have questions about the check-in process before travel day.

The check-in process takes approximately 15-20 minutes longer than standard check-in due to the UM paperwork and gate pass issuance. Arrive at the airport at least 2 hours before domestic departure and 3 hours before international. The extra time accounts for the longer check-in, escorting through security, and the parent's time at the gate before departure. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and ask about your specific airport's UM check-in requirements.

What Happens During the Flight?

Once on board, the child is typically seated near the flight attendant galley or station for easy monitoring. Flight attendants check on UM passengers periodically throughout the flight, assist with meals and beverages, help with bathroom visits if needed for younger children, and ensure the child is comfortable and safe. The child wears a UM identification wristband or lanyard that identifies them to all crew members as an unaccompanied minor requiring attention. Upon landing, the child remains seated until a Delta agent comes to the aircraft to escort them off the plane. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for details about in-flight care specific to your child's age and needs.

Parents can provide the flight attendants with specific instructions such as dietary restrictions, medication needs, or anxiety management strategies. Write these instructions on the UM form or mention them to the gate agent when handing over the child. The flight attendant team is trained in UM care and will follow reasonable parent instructions. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and discuss any special needs your child has so the agent notes them on the booking.

How Does the Pickup Process Work at the Destination?

At the destination airport, a Delta agent meets the child at the aircraft door, escorts them through the terminal to the designated pickup area, and waits for the pickup person to arrive. The pickup person must present a government-issued photo ID that matches the name provided on the UM paperwork exactly. No exceptions are made for ID name mismatches. If the pickup person cannot be reached or does not arrive, Delta staff stays with the child and contacts the parent for alternative instructions. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and ensure the pickup person's full legal name is correctly entered on the UM form.

The parent at the departure airport and the pickup person at the destination should exchange phone numbers and coordinate timing. The pickup person should arrive at the airport before the flight's

scheduled arrival and proceed to the designated UM pickup area, which the agent at +1➤855➤203➤2961 or the airport information desk can direct them to. Government photo ID is non-negotiable for pickup. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and confirm the pickup procedures for your specific destination airport.

Can You Change the Pickup Person After Booking?

Yes, the designated pickup person can be changed by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 before the travel date. The parent or guardian who booked the UM service must authorize the change. Provide the new pickup person's full legal name, relationship to the child, phone number, and address. The change is noted in the UM file and the destination agent receives the updated information. Last-minute changes on the day of travel can be made by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 but should be communicated before the child's flight departs. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 immediately if the pickup person changes.

If the originally designated pickup person cannot make it to the airport and no prior change was made, the situation becomes complicated. Delta will not release the child to anyone whose name does not match the UM paperwork. The parent must call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and authorize a new pickup person by phone, then the destination agent verifies the updated information. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 before travel to add a backup pickup person if there is any uncertainty about the primary person's availability.

What Happens If the Flight Is Cancelled or Delayed?

If a UM child's flight is cancelled or significantly delayed, Delta staff remains with the child at all times. The agent contacts the parent to discuss options: rebooking on the next available flight, returning the child to the departure parent if they are still at the airport, or arranging for a local contact to pick up the child if the parent designated one. Delta does not book UM passengers on the last flight of the day specifically to avoid overnight stranding situations. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 immediately if your UM child's flight is disrupted.

The parent should remain reachable by phone throughout the child's travel, from drop-off through confirmed pickup at the destination. If the parent is unreachable during a disruption, Delta staff makes decisions in the child's best interest, which typically means rebooking on the next available flight and continuing to supervise. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and ensure your contact phone number is correct on the UM paperwork and that your phone is on and charged during the child's travel day.

Can Siblings Travel Together as Unaccompanied Minors?

Yes, siblings can travel together as unaccompanied minors on the same flight. Delta may charge the UM fee per child or per group of siblings depending on the number of children. When booking, call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and specify that the children are siblings traveling together so the agent can

seat them adjacent and apply any applicable sibling pricing. All siblings must meet the age requirements for the route type. If one sibling is 6 and another is 9, the route must qualify for the youngest child, meaning nonstop or direct only because the 6-year-old cannot take connections.

Siblings traveling together provide mutual comfort and reduce anxiety for younger children. The UM supervision process is the same, with Delta staff monitoring the group as a unit. The eldest sibling may be noted as the primary contact point for the group, though Delta staff supervises all children equally. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 with all siblings' names and ages for proper group UM booking.

What Documents Does Your Child Need?

For domestic UM travel, the child needs a government-issued photo ID if available (not all states issue IDs for young children) or a birth certificate to verify age. The parent bringing the child to the airport needs a government photo ID for the gate pass. The UM paperwork completed at check-in serves as the child's authorization document. For international UM travel, the child needs a passport, any required visas, and destination country UM documentation which varies by country. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 at least 2-4 weeks before international UM travel for complete documentation requirements.

Some countries require notarized parental consent letters for unaccompanied minor travel, specifying that the parent authorizes the child to travel alone to that country. These requirements are set by the destination country, not by Delta, and must be researched separately. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 and the agent provides general guidance on international UM documentation, though the parent should verify destination country requirements through the embassy or consulate directly.

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Unaccompanied Minor Age and Route Rules

Age	UM Service	Routes Allowed	Fee
Under 5	Not accepted (too young)	Cannot fly unaccompanied	N/A
5-7 years	UM required (mandatory)	Nonstop and direct only	$150 each way
8-14 years	UM required (mandatory)	Nonstop, direct, and connections	$150 each way

15-17 years	UM optional (can fly alone)	All routes (no restrictions)	$150 if requested
5-14 on international	UM required (mandatory)	Select int'l routes only	$300 each way (varies)
15-17 on international	UM optional	All int'l routes	$300 if requested
Last flight of the day	Not accepted (ages 5-14)	Risk of overnight strand	N/A (policy block)
Connecting flights (5-7)	Not accepted (nonstop only)	Nonstop and direct only	N/A (policy block)

How Does Delta Compare to Other Airlines?

Policy	Delta	American	United	Southwest	Alaska	JetBlue
UM age range	5-17	5-17	5-17	5-11	5-17	5-13
UM fee domestic	$150 each way	$150 each way	$150 each way	$50 each way	$75 each way	$100 each way
Connections (young)	8+ only	8+ only	5+ (some)	5+ (some)	8+ only	None (nonstop only)
Nonstop required	5-7: nonstop/direct	5-7: nonstop/direct	Varies	No	5-7: nonstop	All ages: nonstop only
Int'l UM	Select routes	Select routes	Select routes	Not available	Select routes	Not available
Booking method	Phone only	Phone or online	Phone only	Online or phone	Phone only	Phone only

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People Also Ask

Q: What is Delta's unaccompanied minor policy?

Children ages 5-14 must use Delta's Unaccompanied Minor (UM) service when flying without a parent or guardian. Children 15-17 may use UM service optionally. The fee is $150 each way domestic. UM includes dedicated staff supervision from check-in through pickup at destination. Booking is phone-only by

calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to arrange UM travel.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How much does Delta charge for unaccompanied minors?

Delta charges $150 each way for domestic unaccompanied minor service and approximately $300 each way for international routes. The fee covers supervision from check-in through handoff to the designated pickup person at the destination. The fee applies per child, so two children traveling together pay $300 each way domestic. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for exact fees on your route.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What age can a child fly alone on Delta?

Children ages 5-14 can fly alone using mandatory UM service. Ages 5-7: nonstop and direct flights only. Ages 8-14: nonstop, direct, and connecting flights. Ages 15-17: can fly alone without UM service, or optionally use UM service for an additional fee. Children under 5 cannot fly unaccompanied. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for age-specific rules and available routes.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you book an unaccompanied minor on Delta?

UM bookings must be made by calling +1➤855➤203➤2961 because the online system cannot process UM reservations. Provide the child's name, age, flight details, parent/guardian information, and designated pickup person's details. The agent books the flight, adds UM service, and explains all procedures. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 at least 3-5 days before travel for best availability.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can a 5-year-old fly alone on Delta?

Yes, children as young as 5 can fly on Delta using the mandatory UM service. Ages 5-7 are restricted to nonstop and direct flights only, with no connections. The $150 domestic fee covers full supervision. A parent must escort the child through security to the gate. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to book UM service for a 5-year-old and verify nonstop route availability.

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Q: What happens at the airport for an unaccompanied minor?

The parent checks the child in at the ticket counter, completes UM paperwork with pickup person details, receives a gate pass to escort the child through security and to the gate, and hands the child to a Delta agent at the gate. The agent supervises boarding and seating. At destination, a Delta agent walks the child to the designated pickup person and verifies ID. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for the complete UM airport procedure.

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Q: Can unaccompanied minors fly connecting flights on Delta?

Children ages 8-14 can fly connecting flights as unaccompanied minors. Children ages 5-7 are restricted to nonstop and direct flights only due to the added complexity of connection transfers. Delta staff escorts

the child between connecting gates. The last connection of the day is not available for UM to avoid overnight stranding. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for connecting flight UM availability.

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Q: Can unaccompanied minors fly internationally on Delta?

Yes, select international routes accept unaccompanied minors. International UM fees are approximately $300 each way, higher than domestic. Additional documentation including passport, visa, and destination country UM requirements apply. Not all international routes accept UM. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 at least 2-4 weeks before international UM travel for route availability and documentation requirements.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: UM fee?

A: $150 each way domestic. ~$300 international. Per child. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for exact fees on your route.

Q: Age range?

A: 5-14: mandatory UM. 15-17: optional. Under 5: not accepted. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for age-specific rules.

Q: Book online?

A: No. UM bookings require calling +1➤855➤203➤2961. Phone-only process. Call at least 3-5 days before travel.

Q: Connections?

A: Ages 8-14: connections allowed. Ages 5-7: nonstop/direct only. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for route options.

Q: International?

A: Select routes. Higher fee (~$300). Extra docs required. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 for international UM availability.

Q: Pickup person?

A: Must present government photo ID matching the name on UM paperwork. No exceptions. Call +1➤855➤203➤2961 to set up.

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> What Happens During the Flight for a Delta Unaccompanied Minor?

Last updated: August 15, 2026 | Policy verified against delta.com

Written by Travel Policy Research Team | Reviewed by Senior Aviation Editor

Sources: delta.com, U.S. DOT

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